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ISRAELI POLICE AND OFFICIALS AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE
FACT THAT MOST ISRAELIS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SEC DEPART.
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71/28/81 1832-4 PRINTER: LT

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ACTION NEA 11

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INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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MOREOVER, THE BFC FOLDS THAT ISRAELIS ARE USURPERS OF
THEIR LAND AND THUS ARE UNWILLING TO ASSOCIATE WITH THEM.

5. THE EXACT LOCATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSOLIDATED BFC
SETTLEMENT HAS YET TO BE IDENTIFIED BY THE ISRAELIS.

ACCORDING TO THE GLASS REPORT IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE NEAR
THE RAMAT ROYEV INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN THE NEGEV, SOUTH
OF BEERSHEVA.

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OFFICIALS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT ONCE BFC MEMBERS HAVE
CITIZENSHIP, THEY ARE FREE TO LIVE ANYWHERE THEY DESIRE.

6. LIVING CONDITIONS (PARAGRAPH 20, REPTEL A) IN THE
THREE BFC LOCATIONS CAN BE DESCRIBED AS ORDERLY BUT
BADLY OVERCROWDED. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER
TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT BEING 20 AND SOMETIMES MORE. CROWD-
ING AND CONTINUOUS USE OF KITCHEN AND BATHROOM FACILITIES
DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE RESULTED IN UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS
ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN A GENERAL LOWERING OF THE QUALITY
OF LIFE. THE CROWDED CONDITIONS COULD, UNDER CERTAIN
STANDARDS, BE CONSIDERED UNHEALTHY IN THAT CONTAGIOUS
DISEASES COULD EASILY SPREAD. HALLWAYS AND STORAGE AREAS
ARE CONVERTED INTO SLEEPING QUARTERS. IN ORDER TO OPTIMIZE

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EVERY SQUARE FOOT OF LIVING SPACE. CARTER REMARKED MORE THAN ONCE THAT CONDITIONS HAVE MADE HIS PEOPLE LIVING SPACE ENGINEERS." THE NATURE OF ISRAELI APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION LIMITS FIRE AND PEST HAZARDS. HOWEVER, PROBLEMS OF DECLINING PROPERTY VALUE NEAR BHC AREAS, LACK OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES AND A SENSE OF BESIEGED ISOLATION HAVE ALL LEFT THEIR MARKS. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE THE LIVING AREAS [REDACTED] HAVE BEEN WELL KEPT, AND CLEANER THAN COULD BE EXPECTED UNDER CROWDED CONDITIONS AND POSSIBLY ABOVE THE STANDARDS MANY BHC MEMBERS LEFT BEHIND IN THE GHETTOS OF CHICAGO WHERE MANY FORMERLY RESIDED. IN THIS REGARD WE DISAGREE WITH REPORTS IN PART 1, SECTION 2 OF THE GLASS REPORT DESCRIBING OVERFLOWING GARBAGE CANS, CLOGGED SEWAGE LINES AND "LIVING CONDITIONS HAVING REACHED THE LEVEL OF A SLUM BELOW THE POVERTY LINE." THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN REPORTS OF GARBAGE IN THE STREETS IN ISRAEL, BUT WE HAVE CONTINUOUSLY OBSERVED BHC LIVING AREAS CLEANER THAN THEIR

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NEIGHBORS, WITH NO SEWAGE SMELL EVEN A QUICK "CLEAN-UP" COULD NOT REMOVE THAT IF IT WERE A CONDITION. OR OTHER SIGNS OF SLUM CONDITIONS. SOME OF THOSE REVOLTING ODORS MENTIONED BY THE REPORT APPEAR TO BE EXAGGERATED COMPLAINTS BY NEIGHBORS WHO WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE TYPE OF FOOD BEING PREPARED IN BHC KITCHENS.

7. TRAVEL TIME TO DIMONA FROM THE EMBASSY IS APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS (122 MILES). TRAVEL TO ARAD FROM DIMONA TAKES ABOUT 45 MINUTES (30 MILES). ROAD CONDITIONS, TOPOGRAPHY AND HEAVY TRAFFIC ACCOUNT FOR TRAVEL TIMES THAT ARE SOMEWHAT LONGER THAN NORMAL. A VISIT TO THE BHC REQUIRES A FULL DAY. TO VISIT ALL THREE SITES WOULD REQUIRE OVERNIGHTING IN BEERSHEVA. DIMONA, WHERE CARTER AND MOST OF THE BHC RESIDES IS ALWAYS VISITED, WITH SIDE TRIPS TO ARAD AND MITZPE RAMON ON AN ALTERNATING BASIS. CAR IS THE EASIEST MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, SINCE THESE CITIES ARE OFF THE MAJOR ISRAELI ROAD ARTERIES. THERE IS NO RAIL OR AIR SERVICE. BUS TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE DAILY (EXCEPT ON SATURDAY) AND A PATIENT PERSON CAN EVENTUALLY GET TO ALMOST ANY DESTINATION IN ISRAEL.

8. DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE INNER DYNAMICS OF THE BHC IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN (PARAGRAPH 2D, REFTEL A). HOWEVER THE BHC SOCIAL STRUCTURE APPEARS TO BE BASED ON RELIGIOUS HIERARCHY. BEN-AMI CARTER IS THE FIRST AND LAST WORD ON ALL ISSUES LARGE AND SMALL INCLUDING MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, WHO LIVES WHERE AND WHO DOES WHAT WORK. THERE ARE ABOUT TEN "PRINCES" WHO APPEAR TO HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT THOSE ARE LIMITED DISPENSATIONS OF AUTHORITY. THERE IS AN INTERNAL SYSTEM OF CONTROL. [REDACTED]

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MALNUTRITION. FURTHER, THE STAFF REPORT STATES IN THE
INTERVIEW WITH CARTER THAT PROTEIN LEVELS ARE MAINTAINED
BY SOYBEAN AND SESAME SEEDS. [REDACTED] B-1 ED

10. AS NOTED IN SEPTEMBER 3 DISCUSSION BETWEEN FLOEFF
ELLIOTT AND CA, BEN-AMI CARTER IS AN INTELLIGENT,
ARTICULATE, CHARISMATIC LEADER WHO EXERCISES NEAR-COMPLETE
CONTROL OVER HIS GROUP. HE CAN BE A SPACIOUS HOST -- WHILE
AT THE SAME TIME PREVENTING HIS VISITORS FROM GAINING ANY
ACCESS TO OTHER BHC MEMBERS BEYOND THAT WHICH HE IS PRE-
PARED TO DISPENSE. ABOVE ALL, HE HOLDS THEM WILLING ALLEG-
IANCE OF MOST BHC MEMBERS. OTHER THAN CONFISCATING FUNDS
AND PASSPORTS, THERE IS NO OUTWARD EVIDENCE OF PHYSICAL
CONTROL MEASURES. THE CONTROL WHICH HE DOES EXERCISE
APPEARS TO BE A MIXTURE OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY, RELIGION,
AND ECONOMICS. BHC MEMBERS DO FREQUENTLY LEAVE THE
COMMUNITY, PROVING THAT CONTROL IS NOT TOTAL. THE ISRAELIS
MAY DIFFER WITH US IN DESCRIBING CARTER. THEY AGREE WITH OUR

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GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF BHC [REDACTED] B-1 ED

STATED THAT THERE ARE BETWEEN 1200-1500 BHC MEMBERS. OUR
ESTIMATE, BASED ON AVAILABLE LIVING SPACE AND NUMEROUS
OBSERVATIONS, INDICATES THAT THE LOWER FIGURE IS PROBABLY
CLOSER TO THE TRUTH. ARAD HAS ABOUT 200 BHC MEMBERS AND
MITZPE RAMON ONLY SOME 150, LEAVING APPROXIMATELY 800 IN
DIMONA. [REDACTED] B-1 ED

13. REGARDING DEATHS AND BURIALS IN THE BHC -- THERE ARE
REPORTS OF BURIALS IN THE DESERT AT NIGHT OF DECEASED BHC
MEMBERS. THESE REPORTS REMAIN UNVERIFIED. THE TRANSIENT
NATURE OF THE BHC HAS MADE AN ACCURATE TABULATION OF ITS
MEMBERS IMPOSSIBLE. NEITHER THE ISRAELIS NOR WE WILL HAVE
THIS INFORMATION UNTIL CARTER IS WILLING TO PROVIDE IT.
THIS IS AN ISSUE OF CONCERN TO ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WHO
SUSPECT POSSIBLE WRECKING. WHILE WE HAVE THE SAME

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ACTION NEA-11

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INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 TEL AVIV 17935

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14. PARAGRAPH 2K OF REF A IS ANSWERED BY PARAGRAPH 12 OF
REF B. PARAGRAPH 2M OF REF A IS ANSWERED IN PARAGRAPH 4
OF THIS MESSAGE.

15. IT IS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT THERE ARE BPC MEMBERS
(PARA 2L, REF A. FROM AFRICA AND THE ISLANDS. IT IS
DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO BE MORE SPECIFIC SINCE
CARTER. WHEN ASKED, RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT ONLY OF THE
COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND NOT OF THE NATIONALITY OF ITS
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. WE SUSPECT THERE MAY BE LIBYANS,
NIGERIANS, WEST INDIAN AND SEVERAL OTHER NATIONALITIES.
DUE TO THE LACK OF SPECIFIC IDENTITIES REPRESENTED AND
INFORMATION ON NATIONALITIES, POST HAS BEEN UNABLE TO
PURSUE RE ISSUES WITH OTHERS, MANY OF WHOM WOULD NOT HAVE
DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN ISRAEL.

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